# BLITZ PHOENIX

## Chapter 5: Best Laid Plans

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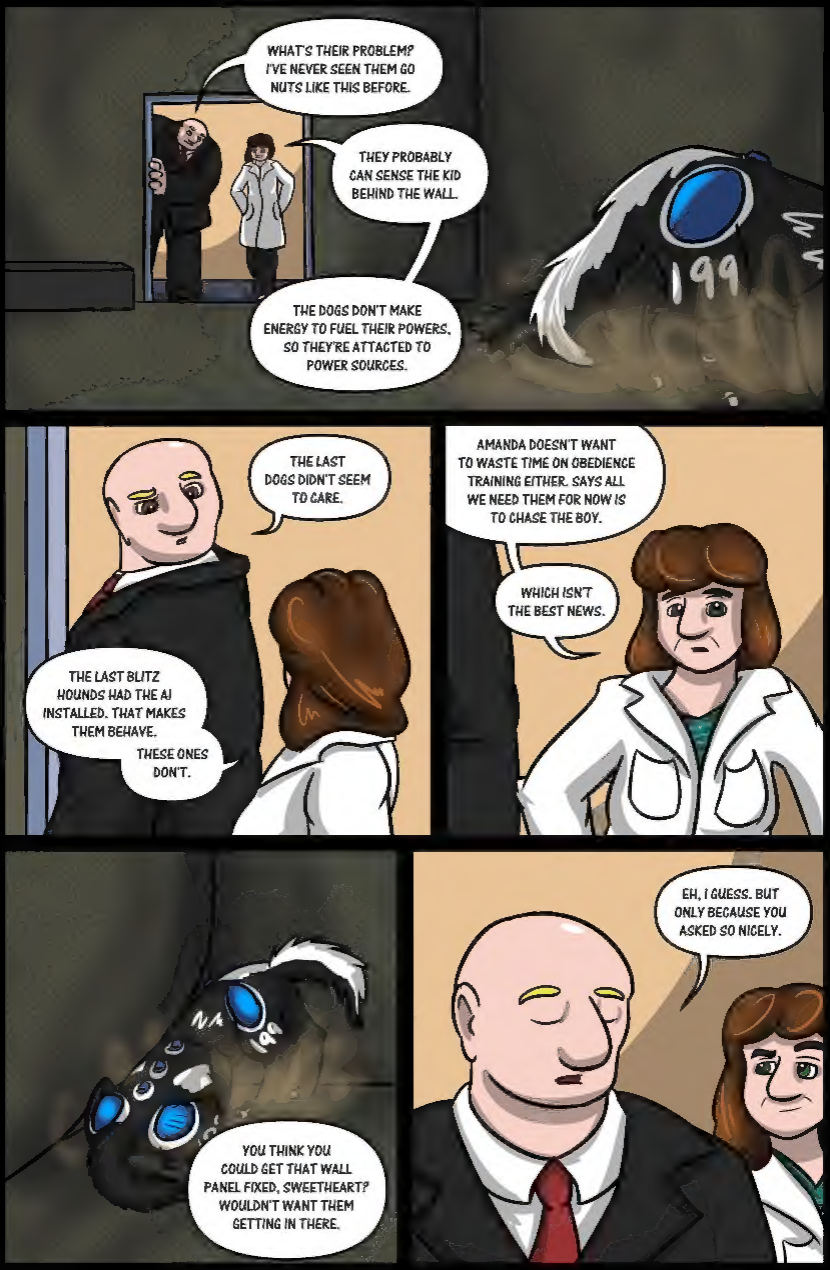
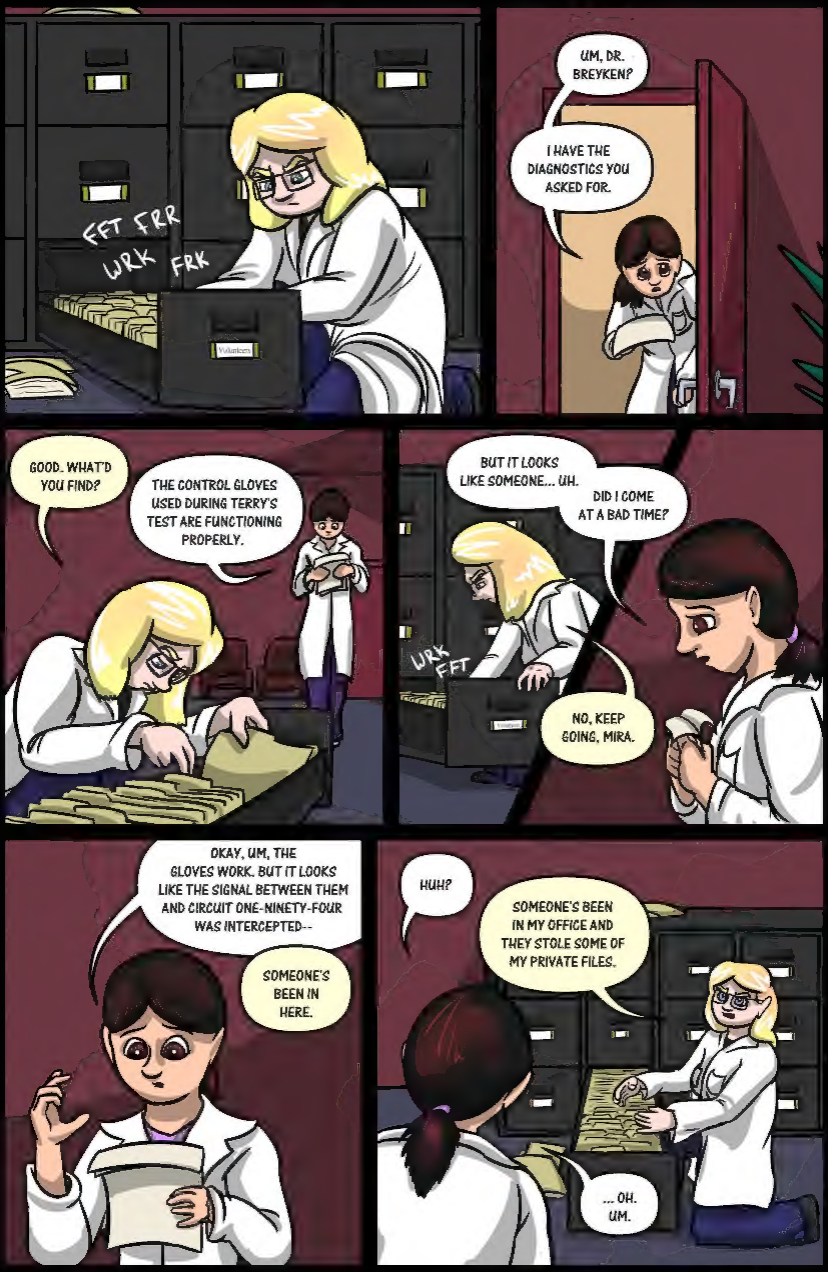
CREEEEEEEEEEEEK

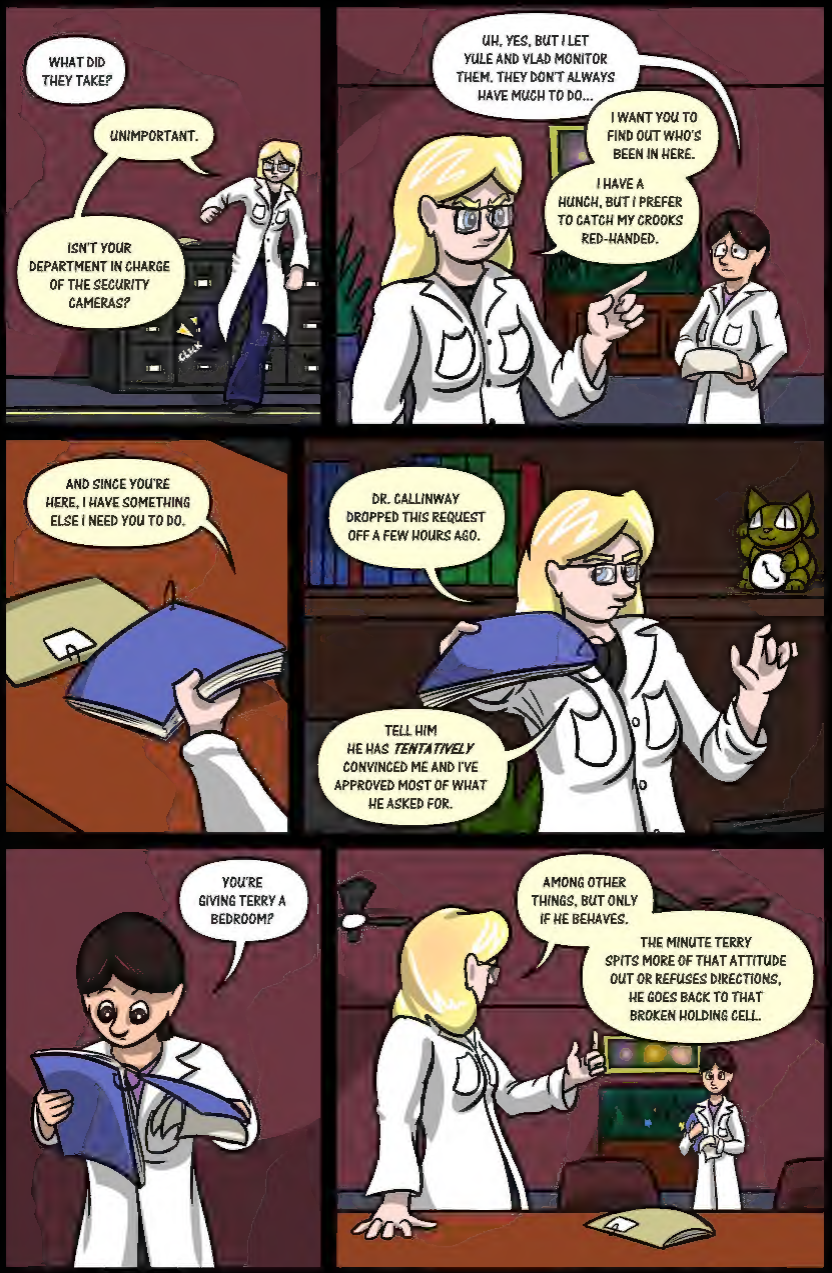
DAD?!
YEAH, TERR?
OH MY GOD! YOU'RE OKAY!
OF COURSE I'M OKAY! WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
BUT I THOUGHT-- I MEAN, I SAW--
YOU'RE REALLY OKAY?!
WHAT KIND OF MOVIE DID YOU BOYS SEE?

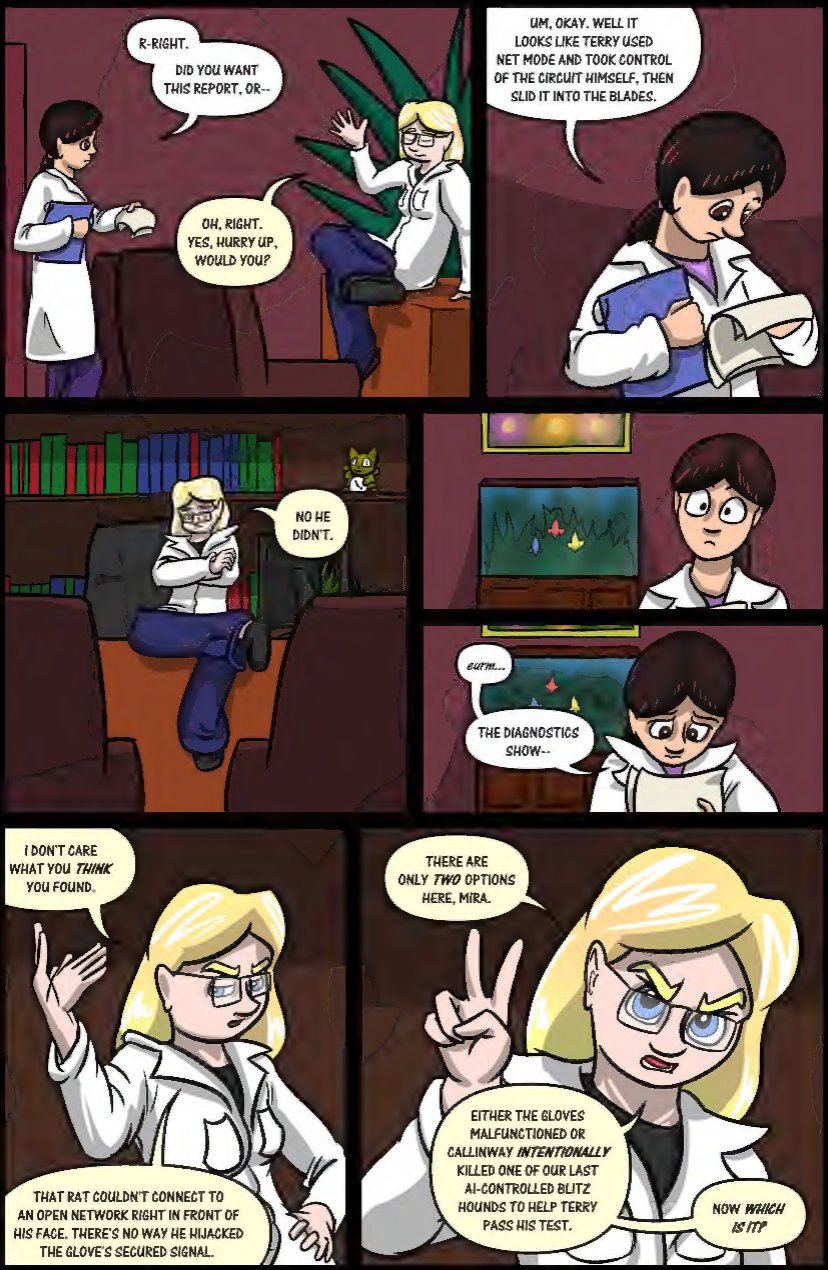
BY THE WAY, THAT FRIEND OF YOURS THAT PUNCHED ME?
HE'S NOT ALLOWED OVER HERE ANYMORE.
HRRR...
OH NO! NO NO NO!
WHY HERE?!
TERRY, DID YOU BRING HOME SOME STRAY?
YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE DOGS.
GET THAT THING OUT OF THE HOUSE BEFORE IT MAKES A MESS.

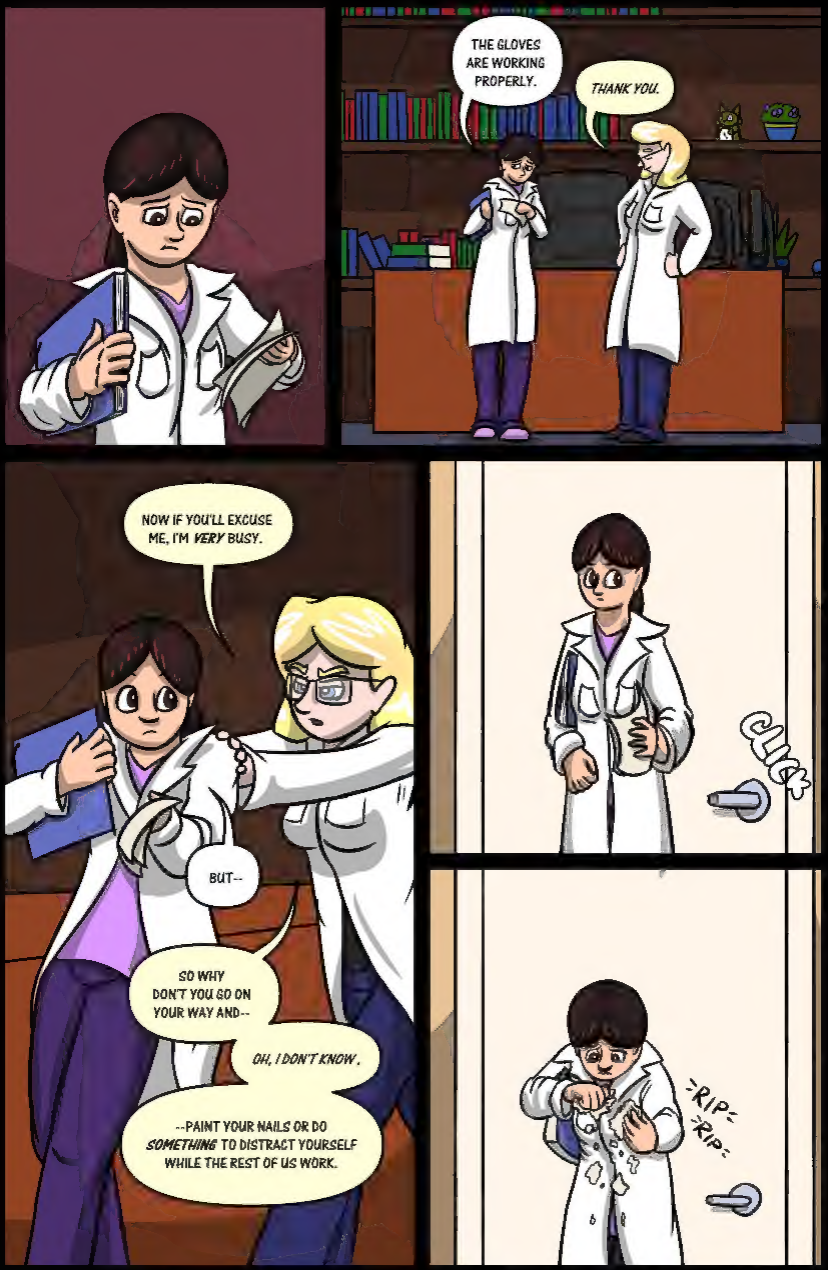
DAD, DON'T!
ARF
ARP
ARF
GROUF
ROF
RUFF
ARF
ARRK
=SKRTCH=
=SKRTCH=
=SKRTCH=
ARUFF
GRR
HRK
=SKRTCH=
=SKRTCH=
RUF
=SKRTCH=
ROF
=SKRTCH=
=PANT=
=PANT=
AROO
ROF
ARRK
HRN
I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE...
ROF
ROF


WHAT'S THEIR PROBLEM? I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM GO NUTS LIKE THIS BEFORE.
THEY PROBABLY CAN SENSE THE KID BEHIND THE WALL.
THE DOGS DON'T MAKE ENERGY TO FUEL THEIR POWERS, SO THEY'RE ATTACTED TO POWER SOURCES.
199
THE LAST DOGS DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE.
THE LAST BLITZ HOUNDS HAD THE AI INSTALLED. THAT MAKES THEM BEHAVE.
THESE ONES DON'T.
AMANDA DOESN'T WANT TO WASTE TIME ON OBEDIENCE TRAINING EITHER. SAYS ALL WE NEED THEM FOR NOW IS TO CHASE THE BOY.
WHICH ISN'T THE BEST NEWS.
YOU THINK YOU COULD GET THAT WALL PANEL FIXED, SWEETHEART? WOULDN'T WANT THEM GETTING IN THERE.
EH, I GUESS. BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU ASKED SO NICELY.


FFT FRR
WRK FRK
Volunteers
UM, DR. BREYKEN?
I HAVE THE DIAGNOSTICS YOU ASKED FOR.
GOOD. WHAT'D YOU FIND?
THE CONTROL GLOVES USED DURING TERRY'S TEST ARE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE... UH.
DID I COME AT A BAD TIME?
WRK FFT
NO, KEEP GOING, MIRA.
OKAY, UM, THE GLOVES WORK. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE SIGNAL BETWEEN THEM AND CIRCUIT ONE-NINETY-FOUR WAS INTERCEPTED--
SOMEONE'S BEEN IN HERE.
HUH?
SOMEONE'S BEEN IN MY OFFICE AND THEY STOLE SOME OF MY PRIVATE FILES.
... OH. UM.


WHAT DID THEY TAKE?
UNIMPORTANT.
ISN'T YOUR DEPARTMENT IN CHARGE OF THE SECURITY CAMERAS?
CLICK
UH, YES, BUT I LET YULE AND VLAD MONITOR THEM. THEY DON'T ALWAYS HAVE MUCH TO DO...
I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT WHO'S BEEN IN HERE.
I HAVE A HUNCH, BUT I PREFER TO CATCH MY CROOKS RED-HANDED.
AND SINCE YOU'RE HERE, I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE I NEED YOU TO DO.
DR. CALLINWAY DROPPED THIS REQUEST OFF A FEW HOURS AGO.
TELL HIM HE HAS *TENTATIVELY* CONVINCED ME AND I'VE APPROVED MOST OF WHAT HE ASKED FOR.
YOU'RE GIVING TERRY A BEDROOM?
AMONG OTHER THINGS, BUT ONLY IF HE BEHAVES.
THE MINUTE TERRY SPITS MORE OF THAT ATTITUDE OUT OR REFUSES DIRECTIONS, HE GOES BACK TO THAT BROKEN HOLDING CELL.


R-RIGHT.
DID YOU WANT THIS REPORT, OR--
OH, RIGHT. YES, HURRY UP, WOULD YOU?
UM, OKAY. WELL IT LOOKS LIKE TERRY USED NET MODE AND TOOK CONTROL OF THE CIRCUIT HIMSELF, THEN SLID IT INTO THE BLADES.
NO HE DIDN'T.
*sigh...*
THE DIAGNOSTICS SHOW--
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU *THINK* YOU FOUND.
THAT RAT COULDN'T CONNECT TO AN OPEN NETWORK RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS FACE. THERE'S NO WAY HE HIJACKED THE GLOVE'S SECURED SIGNAL.
THERE ARE ONLY *TWO* OPTIONS HERE, MIRA.
EITHER THE GLOVES MALFUNCTIONED OR CALLINWAY *INTENTIONALLY* KILLED ONE OF OUR LAST AI-CONTROLLED BLITZ HOUNDS TO HELP TERRY PASS HIS TEST.
NOW *WHICH* IS IT?

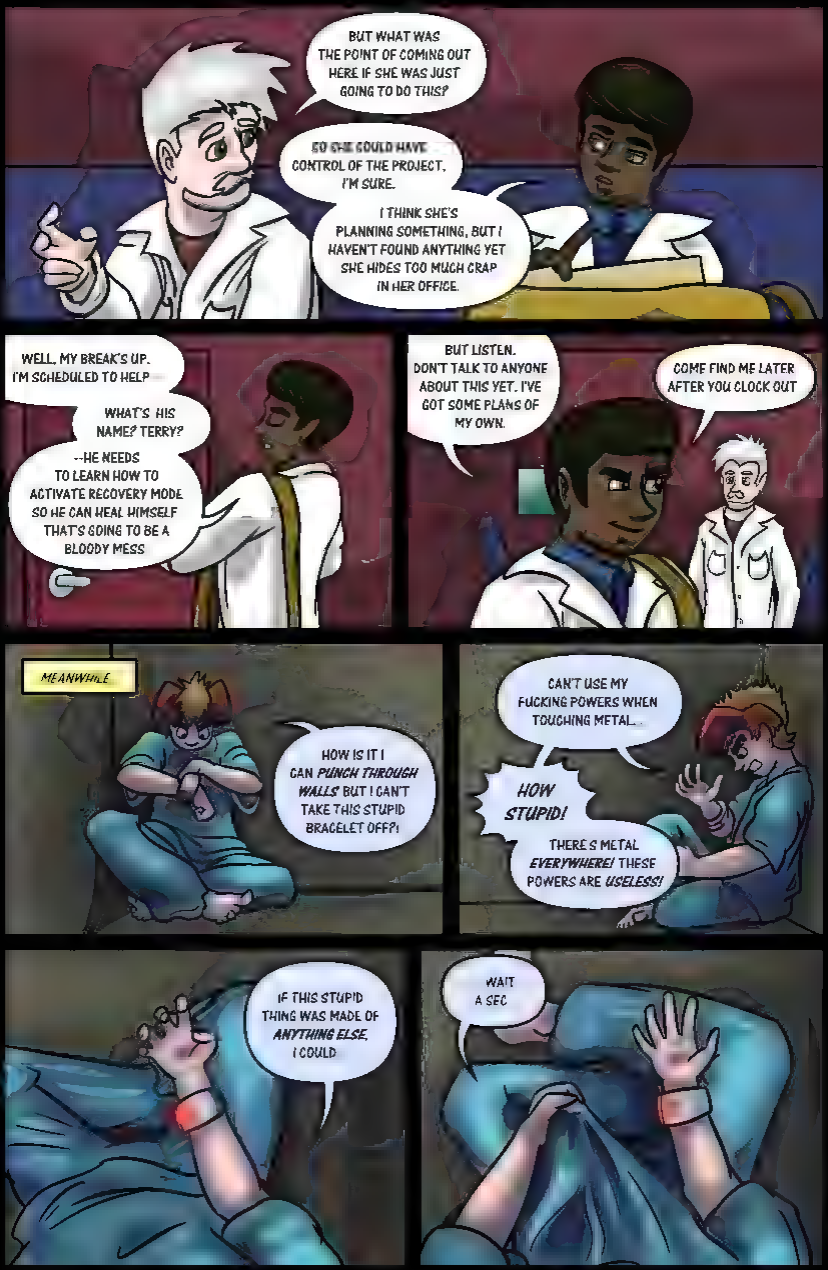

THE GLOVES ARE WORKING PROPERLY.
THANK YOU.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M VERY BUSY.
BUT--
SO WHY DON'T YOU GO ON YOUR WAY AND--
OH, I DON'T KNOW.
--PAINT YOUR NAILS OR DO SOMETHING TO DISTRACT YOURSELF WHILE THE REST OF US WORK.
CLICK
-RIP-
-RIP-

HEY MIKE! DID YOU MISS ME?
GREG! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES
YOU TOOK FIVE WEEKS OFF TO LAY ABOUT OVER THAT TINY BURN ON YOUR HAND?
ACTUALLY.
AND WHILE YOU WERE GONE, EVERYTHING S STARTED FALLING APART! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO AMANDA, BUT SHE'S BEING COMPLETELY UNREASONABLE!
SHE'S ABUSING OUR SUBJECT AND DOESN'T SEEM AT ALL CONCERNED ABOUT HIS WELL BEING
AND SHE'S NOT LISTENING TO ANYTHING I HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT!
ARE YOU DONE?
FIRST, WELCOME TO THE CLUB. AMANDA DOESN'T LISTEN TO WHAT ANY OF US HAVE TO SAY.
SECOND, I TOLD YOU HAVING A KID AROUND THAT'S JUST AS STUBBORN AS SHE IS WOULDN'T WORK.

AND THIRD, I WASN'T LYING AROUND. I'VE BEEN BUSY
WITH *WHAT?*
GETTING *THESE*
WHAT ARE THEY?
RECORDS OF THE VOLUNTEERS WE'VE BROUGHT IN. THEY'RE NOT KEPT WITH THE OTHERS, THESE ARE FROM AMANDA'S OFFICE
THEY WEREN'T EASY TO GET EITHER, SINCE SHE'S IN THERE FOR NINETY NINE PERCENT OF EVERY DAY EVER.
YOU'VE BEEN STEALING RECORDS FROM HER OFFICE?
I PREFER THE TERM *EXCAVATING.*
UNLIKE *YOU,* MAKOTO ACTUALLY CAME TO VISIT ME IN THE INFIRMARY. SAID SOMETHING ABOUT OUR LATEST SUBJECT NOT *TECHNICALLY* BEING A VOLUNTEER
SO I GOT CURIOUS
LOOK - THE FIRST HANDFUL OR SO THAT SHE BROUGHT IN LOTS OF 'EM SHE *BOUGHT* OR PICKED UP OFF THE STREET.
NONE OF THEM KNEW WHAT THEY WERE HERE FOR, MOST LIKELY

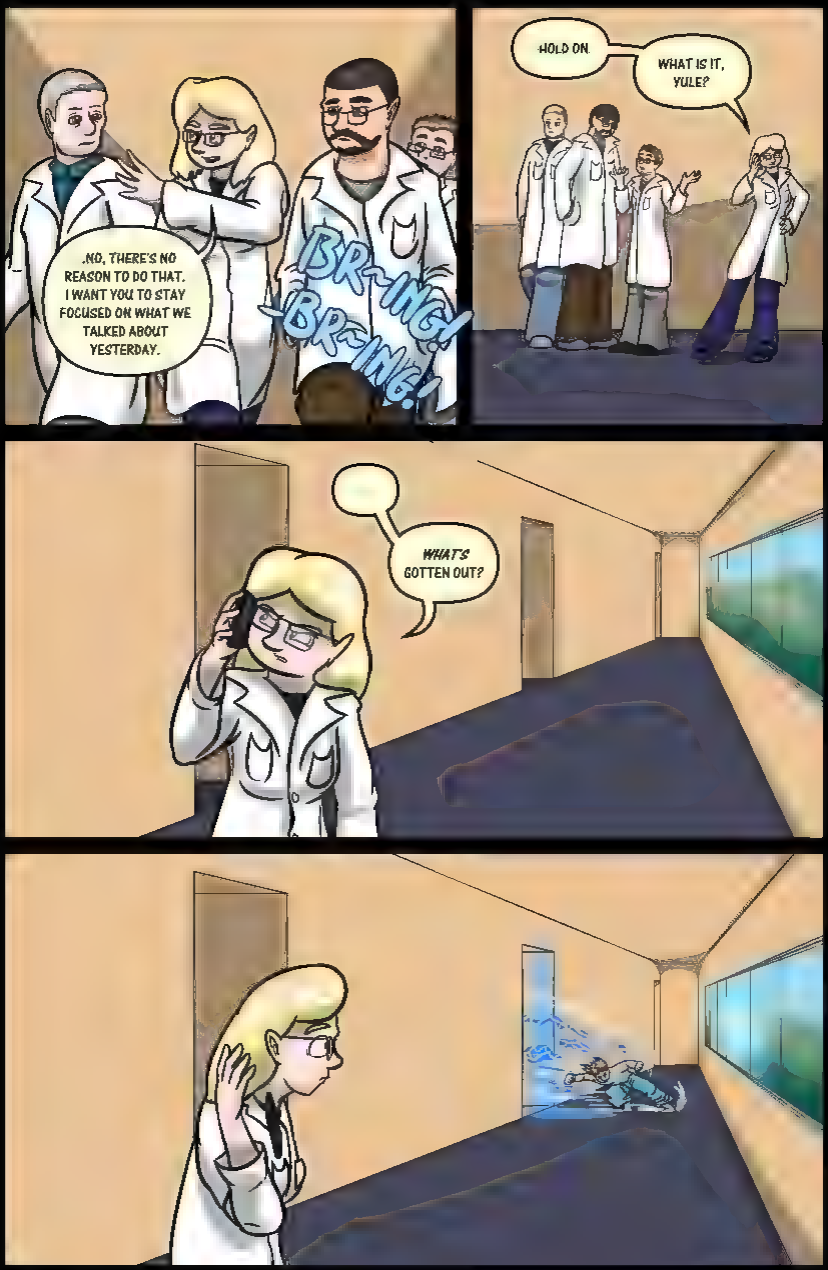
THEN SHE BRINGS IN THESE TWO INTERSTING FELLOWS...
BRETTING HER HUSBAND AND HIS BROTHER
I REMEMBER THESE TWO THIS GUY WAS HER HUSBAND? WASN'T HE THE ONE WE SENT AWAY BECAUSE HE WAS UNWELL?
I HEARD HE PANICKED AFTER HIS BROTHER WAS MODIFIED. THEN WE DECIDED TO USE YOUNGER SUBJECTS ANYWAY, AND HE WAS TOO OLD
BUT LOOK.
HE LEAVES. APPARENTLY GOES RIGHT HOME. AMANDA STARTS RECORDING WHERE THE GUY LIVES.
86015 AZ
49038 MI
15322 PA
TEN YEARS LATER, HE STARTS MOVING AROUND LIKE CRAZY, AND SHE KEEPS TRACKING HIM. THE LAST ONE LISTED SHE FOUND A COUPLE MONTHS AGO
SO I LOOKED THE GUY UP ONLINE. HIS OBITUARY WAS POSTED LAST MONTH
AND TWO DAYS LATER...
IS WHEN THIS KID SHOWS UP HERE

HE WAS GENETICALLY ENGINEERED IN VITRO
WITH ALL THE TRAITS WE NEED. JUST LIKE THE ANIMALS ARE. THAT'S WHY HE WORKED SO MUCH BETTER THAN ALL OUR OTHER HUMAN SUBJECTS.
ADD IN HER HUSBAND AND BROTHER IN-LAW AND WE SEE SHE'S BEEN EXPLOITING HER OWN FAMILY FOR A *LONG TIME* RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES
THIS IS *DISGUSTING.*
AND *YOU* THINK IT'S *FUNNY*
FUNNY? NO. NO. THIS IS *TRAGIC*
THERE'S A *LOT* OF BLOOD ON OUR HANDS HERE.
WHAT I THINK IS *FUNNY* IS I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU FOR YEARS THIS WOMAN IS BATSHIT CRAZY, BUT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LISTENING
*NOW* DO YOU HEAR ME?


BUT WHAT WAS THE POINT OF COMING OUT HERE IF SHE WAS JUST GOING TO DO THIS?
SO SHE COULD HAVE CONTROL OF THE PROJECT, I'M SURE.
I THINK SHE'S PLANNING SOMETHING, BUT I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING YET SHE HIDES TOO MUCH CRAP IN HER OFFICE.
WELL, MY BREAK'S UP. I'M SCHEDULED TO HELP
WHAT'S HIS NAME? TERRY?
--HE NEEDS TO LEARN HOW TO ACTIVATE RECOVERY MODE SO HE CAN HEAL HIMSELF THAT'S GOING TO BE A BLOODY MESS
BUT LISTEN. DON'T TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT THIS YET. I'VE GOT SOME PLANS OF MY OWN.
COME FIND ME LATER AFTER YOU CLOCK OUT
MEANWHILE
HOW IS IT I CAN PUNCH THROUGH WALLS BUT I CAN'T TAKE THIS STUPID BRACELET OFF?!
CAN'T USE MY FUCKING POWERS WHEN TOUCHING METAL...
HOW STUPID!
THERE'S METAL EVERYWHERE! THESE POWERS ARE USELESS!
IF THIS STUPID THING WAS MADE OF ANYTHING ELSE, I COULD
WAIT A SEC

CRUNCH!
Clink!
THAT'S BETTER...
Crack!
Crackle!
AROOO
Beep!
Beep!
UH OH
STATUS
TRACKING
CONFIG
ACTIVE CIRCUIT BRACE #7 HAS BEEN DAMAGED

ALL RIGHT, KID KNOW WE GOT OFF TO A ROUGH START. BUT
ROF
BARK
RUFF
ARF
ROF
WAIT, WHERE'S YOUR
RUFF
BARK
ARRR
BAM!
SHOVE YOUR APOLOGY UP YOUR ASS!
AH SHIT!

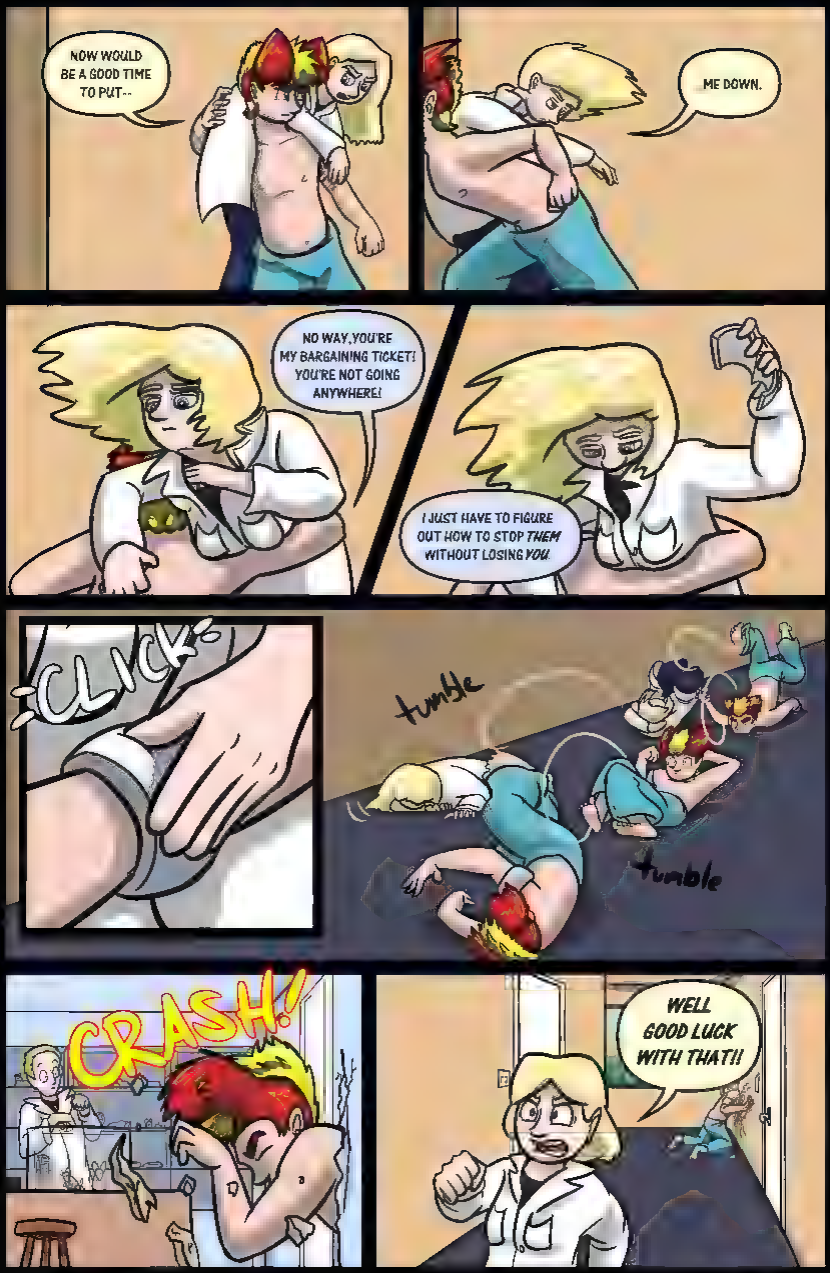

...NO, THERE'S NO REASON TO DO THAT. I WANT YOU TO STAY FOCUSED ON WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY.
BR~ING! BR~ING!
HOLD ON.
WHAT IS IT, YULE?
WHAT'S GOTTEN OUT?

JUST WHO I WAS LOOKING FOR!
ACK!
NOBODY MOVE!
ANY OF YOU TRY ANYTHING, I'M FRYING HER, GOT IT!?
YOU!
CALL THE JET PILOT! TELL HIM HE'S GOTTA TAKE ME BACK HOME!
DO NOT CALL HIM!
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING BACK TO?
THIS IS YOUR HOME! THERE'S NOTHING WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE THIS LAB!
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS! I'M CALLING THE SHOTS, HERE!
YOU'RE NEVER CALLING THE SHOTS!

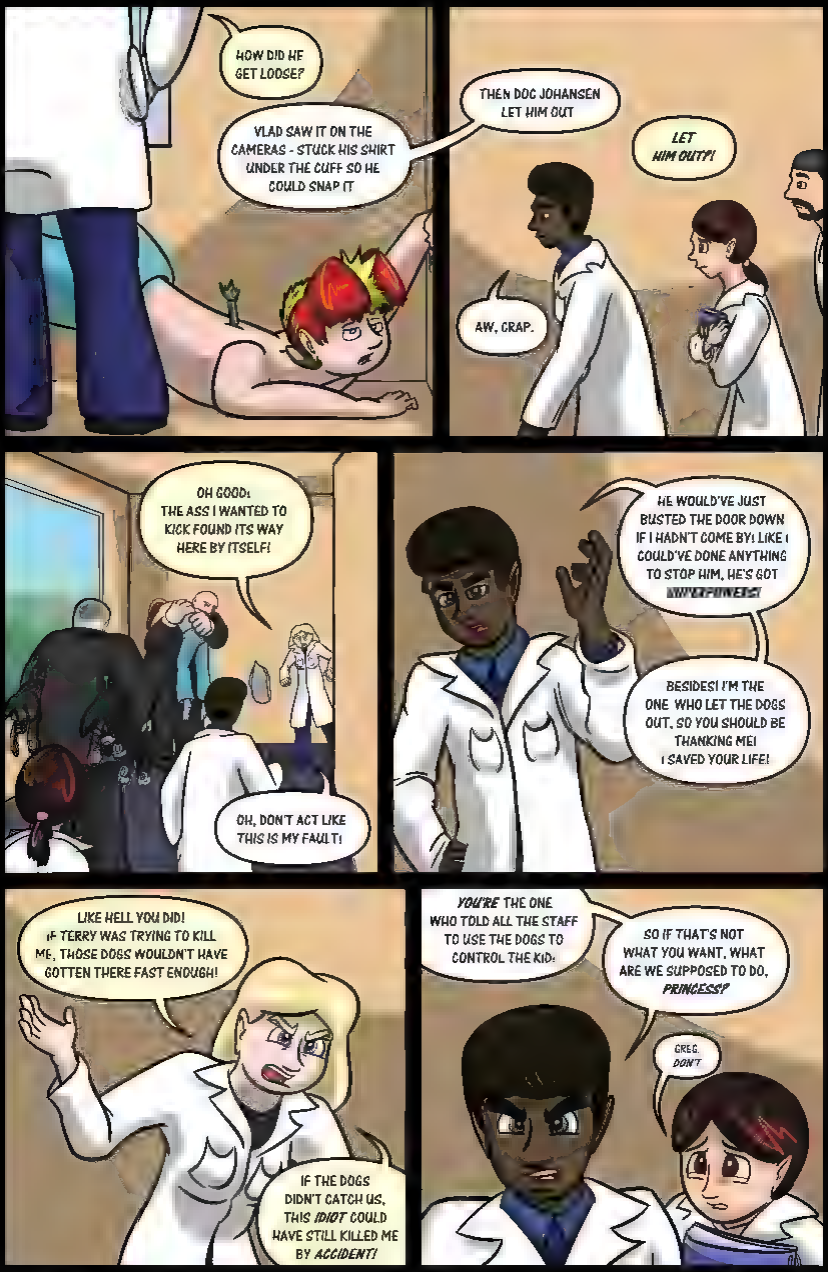
HEY GREG. HAVE YOU SEEN MICHAEL?
STAND BACK VALERIE.
ARF
ROK
ARK
I THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO USE LEASHES.
TERRY'S TRYING TO BREAK OUT
WHA BUT IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN TEN MINUTES!
HUH?
"WE HAVE TO PUT HIM BACK BEFORE AMANDA FINDS OUT!"
SHIT SHIT SHIT!
"I'M SURE SHE WILL ONE WAY OR ANOTHER."

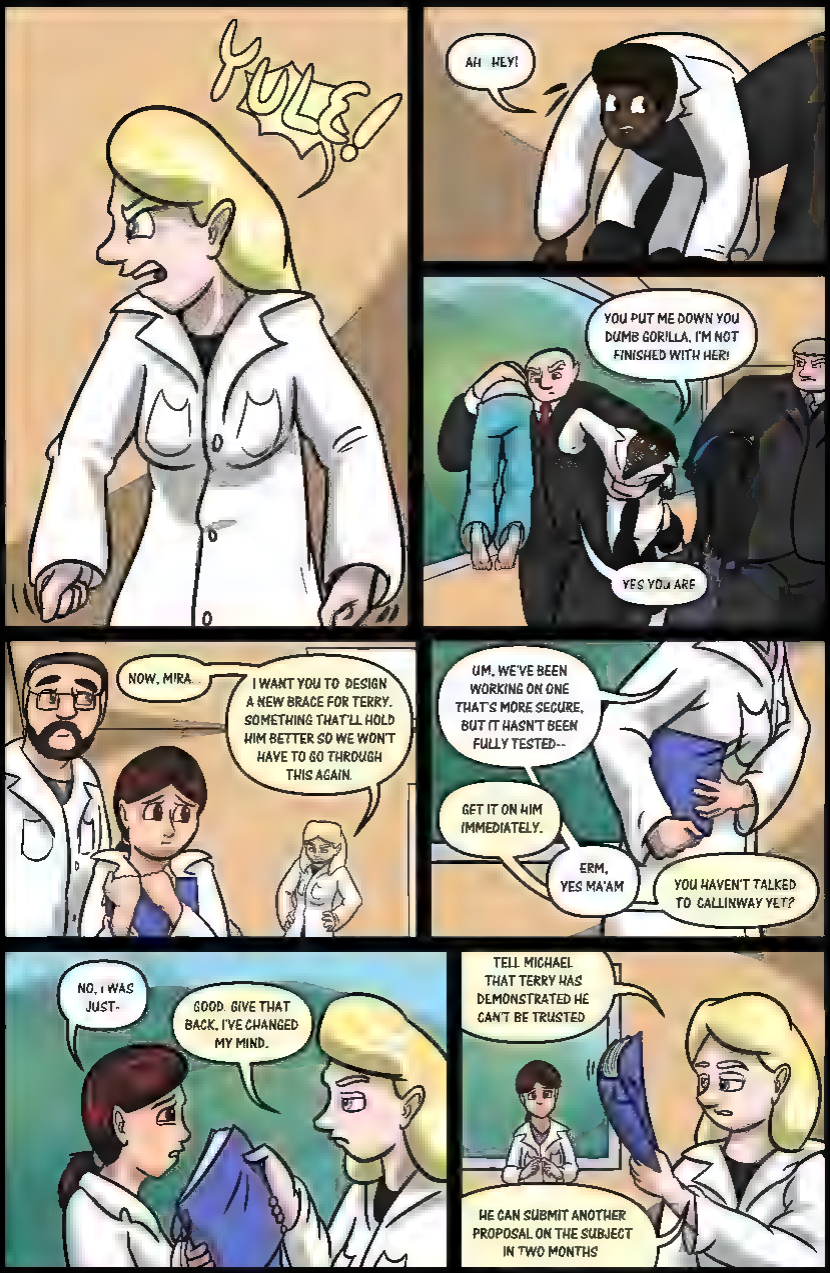
PUT ME DOWN, YOU MANIAC!
CALL OFF YOUR DOGS!
PUT ME DOWN! AND I WILL!
CALL THEM OFF NOW OR I'LL BREAK YOUR HEAD OPEN!
I CAN'T!
BULLSHIT!
I KNOW YOU CAN CONTROL THEM, I'VE SEEN IT!
OUR EXPERIMENTS NORMALLY HAVE AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INFUSED INTO THEIR BRAINS. THAT'S HOW WE CONTROL THEM.
THESE ONES DON'T. THEY'RE JUST WILD! I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
THEN WHY ARE THEY CHASING ME?
IT'S EITHER THEY CAN SENSE HOW MUCH POWER YOU GENERATE AND THEY WANT TO STEAL IT ..
.. OR BECAUSE YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE TO START RUNNING!

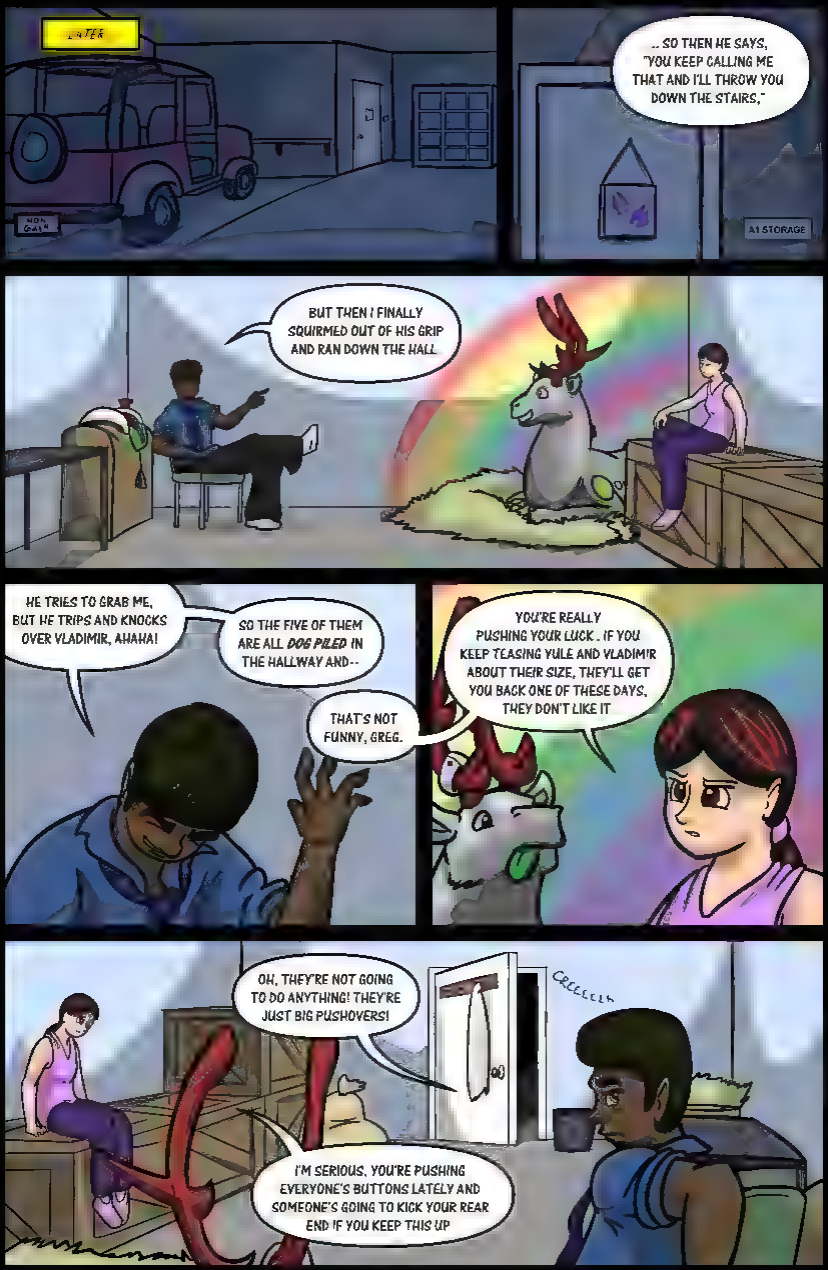
WELL IF THEY WANT MY POWER SO BAD, THEY CAN HAVE IT!
NO NO NO NO NO NONONONO DON'T DO THAT!
HUH?
SEE! THEY CAN ABSORB ELECTRICITY!
WHY CAN'T YOU?
ARRRR


NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO PUT--
ME DOWN.
NO WAY, YOU'RE MY BARGAINING TICKET! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
I JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO STOP THEM WITHOUT LOSING YOU.
-CLICK-
tumble
tumble
CRASH!
WELL GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!!

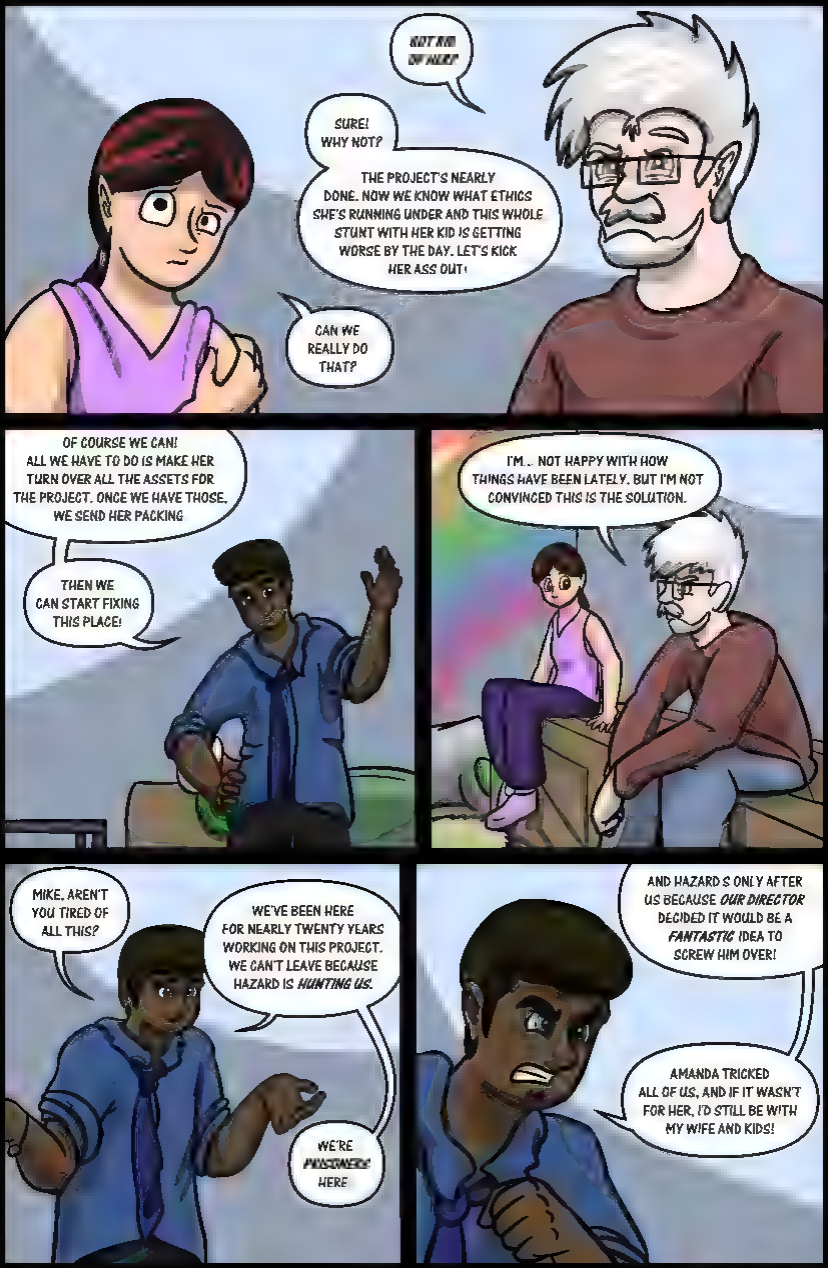
WHAM!
PING!
WE GOT 'EM! PARTY'S OVER!


HOW DID HE GET LOOSE?
VLAD SAW IT ON THE CAMERAS - STUCK HIS SHIRT UNDER THE CUFF SO HE COULD SNAP IT
THEN DOC JOHANSEN LET HIM OUT
LET HIM OUT?!
AW, CRAP.
OH GOOD: THE ASS I WANTED TO KICK FOUND ITS WAY HERE BY ITSELF!
OH, DON'T ACT LIKE THIS IS MY FAULT!
HE WOULD'VE JUST BUSTED THE DOOR DOWN IF I HADN'T COME BY! LIKE I COULD'VE DONE ANYTHING TO STOP HIM, HE'S GOT SUPERPOWERS!
BESIDES! I'M THE ONE WHO LET THE DOGS OUT, SO YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME! I SAVED YOUR LIFE!
LIKE HELL YOU DID! IF TERRY WAS TRYING TO KILL ME, THOSE DOGS WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THERE FAST ENOUGH!
IF THE DOGS DIDN'T CATCH US, THIS IDIOT COULD HAVE STILL KILLED ME BY ACCIDENT!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ALL THE STAFF TO USE THE DOGS TO CONTROL THE KID.
SO IF THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO, PRINCESS?
GREG. DON'T


YULE!
AH HEY!
YOU PUT ME DOWN YOU DUMB GORILLA. I'M NOT FINISHED WITH HER!
YES YOU ARE
NOW, MIRA.
I WANT YOU TO DESIGN A NEW BRACE FOR TERRY. SOMETHING THAT'LL HOLD HIM BETTER SO WE WON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN.
UM, WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON ONE THAT'S MORE SECURE, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN FULLY TESTED--
GET IT ON HIM IMMEDIATELY.
ERM, YES MA'AM
YOU HAVEN'T TALKED TO CALLINWAY YET?
NO, I WAS JUST-
GOOD. GIVE THAT BACK. I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
TELL MICHAEL THAT TERRY HAS DEMONSTRATED HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED
HE CAN SUBMIT ANOTHER PROPOSAL ON THE SUBJECT IN TWO MONTHS

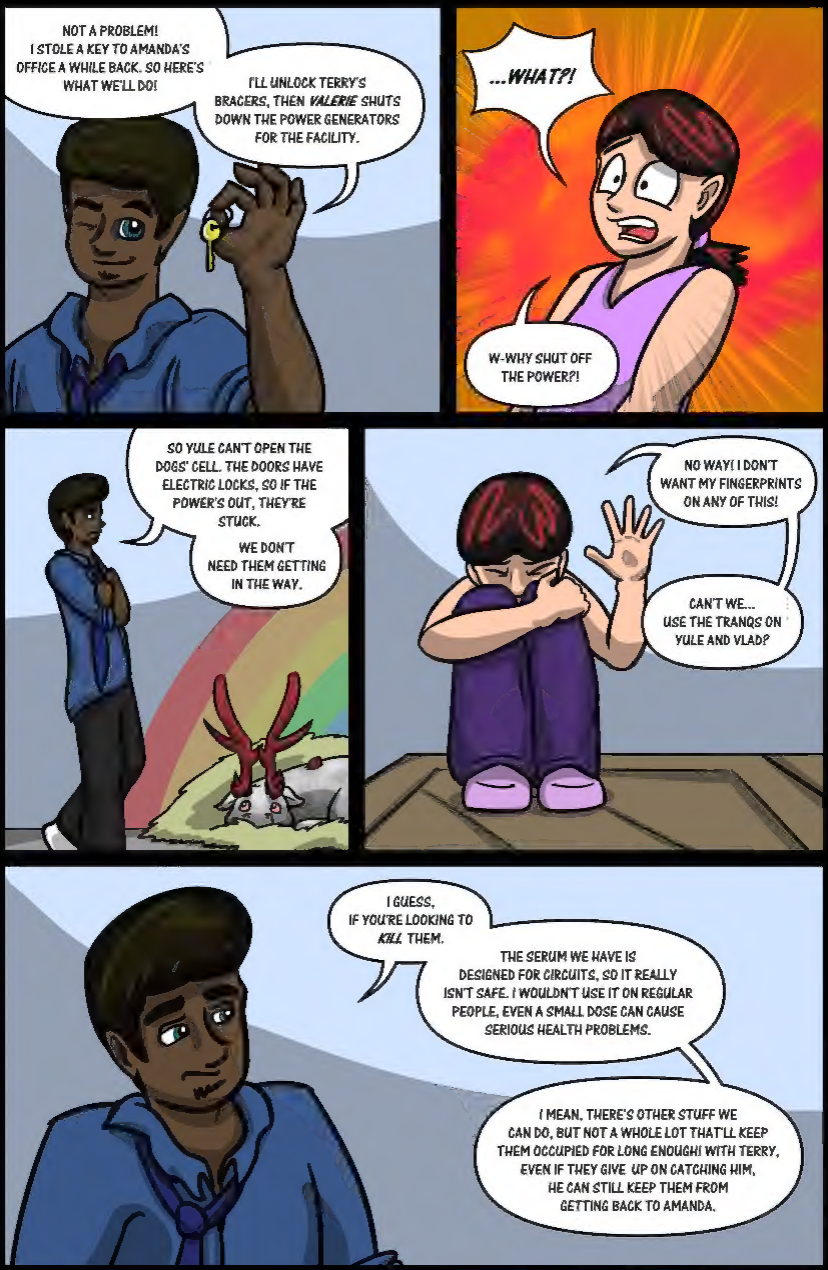

LATER
MOM'S CAR
... SO THEN HE SAYS, "YOU KEEP CALLING ME THAT AND I'LL THROW YOU DOWN THE STAIRS."
A1 STORAGE
BUT THEN I FINALLY SQUIRMED OUT OF HIS GRIP AND RAN DOWN THE HALL
HE TRIES TO GRAB ME, BUT HE TRIPS AND KNOCKS OVER VLADIMIR, AHAHA!
SO THE FIVE OF THEM ARE ALL DOG PILED IN THE HALLWAY AND--
THAT'S NOT FUNNY, GREG.
YOU'RE REALLY PUSHING YOUR LUCK. IF YOU KEEP TEASING YULE AND VLADIMIR ABOUT THEIR SIZE, THEY'LL GET YOU BACK ONE OF THESE DAYS. THEY DON'T LIKE IT
OH, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING! THEY'RE JUST BIG PUSHOVERS!
CRRRRRRK
I'M SERIOUS. YOU'RE PUSHING EVERYONE'S BUTTONS LATELY AND SOMEONE'S GOING TO KICK YOUR REAR END IF YOU KEEP THIS UP

MAYBE IF AMANDA HADN'T BEEN--
WELL LOOK WHO FINALLY DECIDED TO SHOW UP!
WHY ARE WE DOWN HERE?
CAUSE VAL SAYS THERE'S CAMERAS IN THE BREAK ROOM.
REALLY? I THOUGHT JUST THE CIRCUITS' CELLS AND WORK ROOMS WERE MONITORED
NEARLY EVERY ROOM IN THIS BUILDING IS BUGGED, BUT NO ONE'S SUPPOSED TO KNOW.
THIS ROOM ISN'T SINCE THE REINDEER DOESN'T DO MUCH OTHER THAN EAT AND FART. I MEAN.
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
CUT IT OUT
THEN WHAT ABOUT EARLIER--
WHEN YOU GUYS HAD AMANDA'S FILES?
I ALREADY DELETED IT. SHE WON'T KNOW.
GREAT, SO LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!
I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT IT'S HIGH TIME WE GOT RID OF AMANDA.


KIT AM OF ALEX?
SURE! WHY NOT?
THE PROJECT'S NEARLY DONE. NOW WE KNOW WHAT ETHICS SHE'S RUNNING UNDER AND THIS WHOLE STUNT WITH HER KID IS GETTING WORSE BY THE DAY. LET'S KICK HER ASS OUT!
CAN WE REALLY DO THAT?
OF COURSE WE CAN! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MAKE HER TURN OVER ALL THE ASSETS FOR THE PROJECT. ONCE WE HAVE THOSE, WE SEND HER PACKING
THEN WE CAN START FIXING THIS PLACE!
I'M... NOT HAPPY WITH HOW THINGS HAVE BEEN LATELY. BUT I'M NOT CONVINCED THIS IS THE SOLUTION.
MIKE, AREN'T YOU TIRED OF ALL THIS?
WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR NEARLY TWENTY YEARS WORKING ON THIS PROJECT. WE CAN'T LEAVE BECAUSE HAZARD IS *HUNTING US.*
WE'RE *PRISONERS* HERE
AND HAZARD'S ONLY AFTER US BECAUSE *OUR DIRECTOR* DECIDED IT WOULD BE A *FANTASTIC* IDEA TO SCREW HIM OVER!
AMANDA TRICKED ALL OF US, AND IF IT WASN'T FOR HER, I'D STILL BE WITH MY WIFE AND KIDS!

WE ALL MADE OUR OWN DECISION TO COME HERE, EVEN YOU
OH, SO I SHOULD JUST SIT HERE WITH A BIG DUMB SMILE ON MY FACE AS SHE KEEPS EXPLOITING US?
DON'T ACT LIKE I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN! NONE OF US DID!
YOU NEED TO GET OVER THIS WEIRD LOYALTY YOU HAVE.
AMANDA IS A SOCIOPATH AND SHE'S STOLEN YOUR LIFE FROM YOU DO YOU WANT IT BACK OR NOT?
WHAT ABOUT YULE AND VLADIMIR?
HOW ARE YOU EXPECTING TO GET ANYTHING FROM AMANDA WHEN THOSE TWO TAKE ORDERS EXCLUSIVELY FROM HER?
MAYBE WE CAN GET THEM TO JOIN OUR SIDE? HOW MUCH DOES SHE PAY THEM?

NO NO NO! DON'T TALK TO THEM, THEY'LL GO STRAIGHT TO AMANDA!
OR... um ...
MAYBE IF WE COULD DISTRACT THEM UNTIL AMANDA'S GONE, THEY'LL LEAVE ON THEIR OWN...
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW WE WOULD. THEY GET PAGED WHEN ANYTHING GOES WRONG. SO IT'D HAVE TO BE SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT
WE COULD LET TERRY OUT
HOW
HOLD ON.
YOU CAN'T JUST USE HIM LIKE SOME TOY, GREG
COME ON, MIKE, IT'S PERFECT! ALL HE'D HAVE TO DO IS KEEP THOSE LUGS BUSY WHILE WE DEAL WITH AMANDA!
WE CAN EVEN HIDE THE TRANQ GUNS SO THEY CAN'T CATCH HIM!
"WE CAN'T LET HIM OUT NOW. I JUST PUT OUR NEW CONTROL BRACERS ON HIM - THEY LOCK HIS WRISTS TO HIS ANKLES SO HE CAN'T BREAK OUT.
"OUR MAGNETIC KEYS WON'T OPEN THEM, JUST A PASSWORD."
YOU DON'T HAVE THE PASSWORD?"
"I DO, BUT IT ONLY WORKS FROM AMANDA'S COMPUTER."


NOT A PROBLEM! I STOLE A KEY TO AMANDA'S OFFICE A WHILE BACK. SO HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO!
I'LL UNLOCK TERRY'S BRACERS, THEN VALERIE SHUTS DOWN THE POWER GENERATORS FOR THE FACILITY.
...WHAT?!
W-WHY SHUT OFF THE POWER?!
SO YULE CAN'T OPEN THE DOGS' CELL. THE DOORS HAVE ELECTRIC LOCKS, SO IF THE POWER'S OUT, THEY'RE STUCK.
WE DON'T NEED THEM GETTING IN THE WAY.
NO WAY! I DON'T WANT MY FINGERPRINTS ON ANY OF THIS!
CAN'T WE... USE THE TRANQS ON YULE AND VLAD?
I GUESS, IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO KILL THEM.
THE SERUM WE HAVE IS DESIGNED FOR CIRCUITS, SO IT REALLY ISN'T SAFE. I WOULDN'T USE IT ON REGULAR PEOPLE, EVEN A SMALL DOSE CAN CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS.
I MEAN, THERE'S OTHER STUFF WE CAN DO, BUT NOT A WHOLE LOT THAT'LL KEEP THEM OCCUPIED FOR LONG ENOUGH! WITH TERRY, EVEN IF THEY GIVE UP ON CATCHING HIM, HE CAN STILL KEEP THEM FROM GETTING BACK TO AMANDA.

I DON'T WANT ANYONE HURT, BUT THAT'S WHY GETTING TERRY INVOLVED IS A BAD IDEA. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
BESIDES, WITH HOW ROUGH WE'VE BEEN TO HIM, WHO KNOWS IF HE'D EVEN AGREE TO ANYTHING I SAY.
ARE YOU KIDDING? HE'S AT ROCK BOTTOM AND HAS *EVERYTHING TO GAIN* FROM AMANDA LEAVING!
HE HAD EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ROLL HEADS TODAY AND HE DIDN'T. JUST TELL HIM TO BE CAREFUL AND HE CAN HANDLE HIMSELF.
IF WE LET HIM HELP WITH EVICTING HER, MAYBE WE CAN WIN HIS TRUST BACK. THAT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR DEALING WITH HIM IN THE LONG RUN.
JUST *WHAT IS* "THE LONG RUN," EXACTLY?
WE JUST GO BACK TO TESTING HIM?
UH, WELL...
I MEAN, IT WOULDN'T BE THE *SAME*, WE CAN TREAT HIM BETTER--
I DON'T WANT HIM USED FOR ANY MORE EXPERIMENTS.
THE ANIMALS WERE FINE WHEN WE HAD THE AI, BUT IF WE CAN'T GET A PERSON TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS PROJECT, THEN WE NEED TO STOP CHANGING HUMANS INTO CIRCUITS COMPLETLEY.
TERRY NEEDS TO BE TREATED LIKE A HUMAN BEING, STARTING WITH A BEDROOM AND PERMISSION TO MOVE AROUND THE FACILITY FREELY.
OH YEAH, SOUNDS GREAT!
SO WHEN WE LET HIM OUT AND FRIES ALL OF US, WE'LL BE SURE TO THANK YOU, MIKE.
HE CAN STILL WEAR A BRACE. OR WE COULD EVEN GIVE HIM A METAL IMPLANT SO HE CAN'T USE HIS STANDARD POWERS AT ALL.

MIKE, YOU DIDN'T FORGET THIS IS WHY WE'VE BEEN HERE ALL THESE YEARS, RIGHT? TO MAKE A HUMAN CIRCUIT?
OF COURSE.
AND NOW'S THE TIME TO CHANGE OUR PRIORITIES.
ALL RIGHT, IF YOU INSIST.
SO YOU TWO ARE IN, THEN?
YES.
O-KAY...
PERFECT! I'LL TALK TO TRUDY AND MAKOTO. MIKE, YOU TALK TO TERRY, AND VAL, YOU GET THE TECHNICAL STUFF READY.
I KNOW YOU'RE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THIS, BUT YOU'LL SEE! THINGS WILL BE BETTER WITHOUT THAT WITCH.

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